



Celebrating over 30 years of Learning Partner Swimming Lessons



Learning Partners wrapped-up 5 weeks of Swim and Water Safety Classes last month. Families were thrilled that the students learned the safe way to help someone in distress, how to properly wear a life jacket, and how to survive a sinking boat and safely wait for help. Our goal is to increase swimming skills and reinforce life skills that are vital in our water wonderland. With the support of dedicated Volunteers and Grand Traverse County Pool Staff, Learning Partners have been able to teach life-saving water safety skills for more than 35 years through this invaluable program.

Captured at the left are the steps to take when a boat you are in tips over, and how to stay calm and safe until help arrives. The instructors teach the kids certain catch phrases, in hopes they will remember them if they are ever in a dangerous situation around water. "Reach or throw; don't go!" and "Look before you leap!" are the two most common taught phrases.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this another successful session of swimming lessons. Learning Partner volunteers: Maxine Rideout, Barb Harmer, Bev Saur, Jeana Paquet, Peg Gove, Kay Velker and Carla Bloom. Also, special thanks to the Civic Center Pool Staff; Erith Welch, Chad Allen, Megan Murray, Erin Parsons and Matt and Allie Shumate.

**See page 4 for an important reminder
on Court House Security.**



Happy Birthday

July

Mary Wayne
Michael Robold
Carla Lamphere
Beverly Popvits
Luann Heinert
Karen Grant
Laura Mains
Carrie Brown

August

Elliot Morrison
Joan Lefferts
Jane Vitkus
Etta Rajkovich
Ruth Bay
Edward Thoma
Don Kuehlhorn
John Wilkins

Bettie Wilkins
Karen Gartland
Tim Doyle
Barb Grewe
Sue Paul
Theresa Galante
Bonnie Flowers

Congratulations, Kathy Nixon

Congrats to Kathy for her recognition as a nominee of the Grand Traverse County Community Volunteer of the year Award!

Kathy is the office manager with the Truancy Department. Kathy is an avid volunteer with her family's church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church.



Congratulations to our new CASA volunteers.

On Tuesday, May 7th we welcomed new CASA volunteers. A special thank you to fellow CASA, Dave Speirs, and CASA training team member, Jill Kimball, for their touching words during the ceremony. The following were sworn in by Judge Melanie Stanton:

Deborah Aldridge
Cheryl Beyer
Robert Brown
Peggy Friess
Ann Geht
Gayenell Gentelia



Dorothy Grant
Lisa Hoffman
Colleen Macdonald
Shannon McCullough
Melissa Morgan
Nancy Reddy

This year marked a first for Grand Traverse County CASA; Leelanau County became a satellite program with 4 volunteers being sworn in by Judge Larry Nelson. Congratulations to **Hank DeYoung, Patty DeYoung, Kathy Wessell and Ty Wessell.**





Learning Partner Students will have the opportunity to have some Fishing Fun on July 31! Students, their families and Learning Partner Volunteers will meet for an afternoon of baiting, casting, (hopefully catching) and releasing. Details will be mailed to Volunteers and families in July. We'll meet again in late August for our "Back-to-School" celebration. We'll have a nature hike, potluck picnic and distribute school supplies as we celebrate the start of another school year.



"Backpacks for Kids", the signature community service project of The Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club, will once again be providing our Learning Partner Students with backpacks filled with school supplies. The Learning Partners Program has always celebrated back-to-school and tried to provide students with the essentials to get their studies off on the right track. Beginning in 2012, Sunrise Rotarians were able to include us in their community backpack distribution (more than 1,400 backpacks last year alone!). We are very grateful for their continued support! Thank you, Sunrise Rotary Members!

July– There will be no CASA meeting in July. Instead, make sure your monthly and court reports are getting in on-time and enjoy the National Cherry Festival and all that Northern Michigan Summer has to offer.



August– On Tuesday August 20th, from 4-6 p.m., we resume our monthly CASA meetings and welcome Amanda Steele, Senior Attorney, Grand Traverse Prosecuting Attorney's office. Ms. Steele, who is also a member of our CASA training team, will discuss what makes up a good fact based court report and "what's important and what's not" on what should be included. Please plan on attending this valuable training opportunity.

SAVE THE DATE:

September- Monthly Meeting will be combined with CASA and Learning Partners, "Understanding Special Education and IEP's".

October - Anti-Bullying Conference, Oct. 25th at the Hagerty Center.



November 8th-9th - Michigan CASA Conference taking place in Frankenmuth, MI.

Special thanks to our Truancy Facilitator's



We would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who have helped us make our truancy program a success throughout the 2012-13 school year. This year we had many new faces in our sessions as well as a few veterans from last year, including:

Roy Bernier

Erica Canfield

Barb Grewe

Marie Hanis

Catherine Simons

Tate Stewart

Shen Chefalo

Peggy Friess

Lisa Hoffman

Don Kuelhorn

Dave Speirs

Diana Zapalski

Thank you all for your time and effort in making this program work for our area parents and youth.

Security Refresher: Probate and Family Court Staff recently took part in a security training refresher program. We wanted to take this opportunity to pass along some of the information we learned as well as remind you of some of the rules we have for coming into the building.

- ♦ Avoid entering the court building with items listed as prohibited; Guns, knives, razors, scissors, box cutters or any type of spray or liquids.
- ♦ No food or beverages
- ♦ All packages are subject to inspection, the more items you bring into the courthouse the longer it will take to get through security.
- ♦ Avoid when possible bringing in large bags and purses full of items non-essential to your visit.
- ♦ Arrive early whenever possible to allow time for the security measures.
- ♦ Remove all metallic/metal items; belts, watches, jewelry, loose change and place them in the blue baskets at the security station.
- ♦ If you have a legitimate medical/physical reason preventing you from complying with any part of the security screening process, calmly explain your circumstance to the security staff and they will make accommodations accordingly.



“Court building security is not a one-time achievement. It is a serious and continuous goal and requires constant vigilance. Further, it must be a number one priority every single day for all those interested and involved in the process.” National Center for State Courts



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



It appears to be summer (no frost reports for at least two days). The summer furniture is out and some plants are in.

GTALC is involved in its annual year end assessment of activities and projects.

We have now completed our entire strategic plan update save for our web site redesign. After a false start, we are embarking on a new effort in this area with the folks at the LIAA.

Our new logo along with new posters, stationery, and business cards are complete and available.

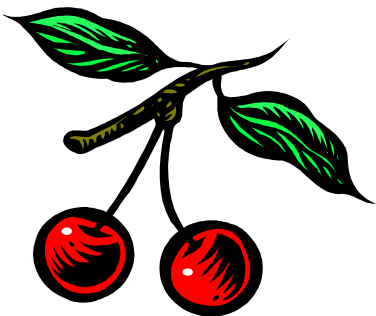
As of this writing, we are finalizing our procedural flow chart with Family and Probate Court under the guidance of Judge Stanton. Once this is complete, we will be able to help referrals from the Family Court by helping parents upgrade their literacy skills.

At the June meeting of our board, we will elect officers for the fiscal year '13/'14, as well as, appoint members of the board for their next terms of service. We will also set the calendar and budget.

We have completed a year of service to our students and anticipate an equally interesting, productive, and challenging upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson, President, Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council



87th Annual National Cherry Festival June 29th-July 6th

For more event info. visit:
www.cherryfestival.org



**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRANVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

Summer Vacation

PRE-SORT STD.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

PERMIT NO. 229

Return Service Requested

***All meeting are held at the Volunteer Services office
unless otherwise mentioned.**

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

**Tuesday, July 2nd-No Meeting
Look for info. on Aug. Picnic**



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

**Tuesday, July 16th-No Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 20th-see pg. 3**



Literacy Council

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm
Traverse Area District Library

**Wednesday, July 17th-No Mtg.
Wednesday, Aug. 21st**



**Volunteer
Services
Received a
Mini-Fishing
Grant!**



We are excited to announce that our 'Hooked On Fishing' Program received a Mentor Michigan Fisheries Mini-Grant for \$200.00. Stay tuned for pictures of the fish our youth catch this summer with volunteer Matt Dohm!